

## **Intervention: Promote educational opportunities for public health workers**

Finding: Insufficient evidence to determine effectiveness

### **Potential partners to undertake the intervention:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofits or local coalitions                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Businesses or labor organizations          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Schools or universities               | <input type="checkbox"/> Media                                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health care providers                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local public health departments |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State public health departments       | <input type="checkbox"/> Policymakers                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitals, clinics or managed care organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> Other:                                     |

### **Background on the intervention:**

Educational incentives keep the current workforce up to date with the latest developments and help to keep workers in the health field. In addition, attainment of proper qualification through professional training and continuing education is important for public health workers to meet the escalating demands of new medical technologies and methodologies.

### **Findings from the systematic reviews:**

Research found insufficient evidence to determine the effectiveness of educational opportunities for public health workers as a means to promote a sufficient and competent public health workforce. Practices that lack sufficient research to support effectiveness should not be confused with ineffective programs. Rather, they should be recognized as programs that have the potential to become evidence-based practices—if properly evaluated. Practitioners are encouraged to monitor the impact of these programs in their communities and report on their findings in order to build a base of knowledge sufficient to reach consensus.

### **Additional information:**

Council of State Governments Trends Alert – [www.csg.org](http://www.csg.org)  
Public Health Workforce Study – <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov>

### **References:**

Allegrante J, Moon R, Auld E, Gebbie, K. Continuing-Education Needs of the Currently Employed Public Health Education Workforce. American Journal of Public Health 2001; 91(8): 1230-1234.